

TURNER.

William Turner, Esquire, was attached in 1812 to the staff of Sir Robert Liston, His Majesty's Ambassador to the Porte, who had been despatched "to secure and hasten the signature of peace between the Porte and Russia." But the treaty had been concluded, before the arrival of the Embassy, by Sir Stratford Canning, and Mr Turner soon obtained permission "to change his official labours for the pleasures of travelling." He explored Greece and Albania, with the adjacent islands, and on February 20, 1815, again left Constantinople in a small Turkish vessel, and sighted Cyprus on March 22, travelled in Palestine, visited M. Sinai, and returned to Larnaca on October 3, sailing again on November 16 for Rhodes.

His *Journal of a Tour in the Levant*, dedicated to Mr Canning, was published by John Murray in 3 vols. 8vo. London, 1820, "as nearly as possible in the form in which it was originally written." It gives us the straightforward notes of a plucky, persevering and intelligent traveller. We transcribe from vol. II. pp. 31—52 and 528—584.

The current value of the Turkish piastre between 1812 and 1816 varied from P. 17 to P. 30 to the pound sterling. The intrinsic value of the coin was ninepence halfpenny.

Saturday, March 11, 1815. At daylight, to our indescribable happiness, we found we were close to Cyprus. It was nearly calm in the early part of the morning. At ten o'clock we were under the south-west coast of the island, gazing on the celebrated Paphos, which now bears the name of Baffo, though there are no remains of it but the small hill on which it stood and (I was afterwards told) sixty-two subterraneous chambers, probably of the temple, not yet filled up, as are a great number of others near. In the afternoon there sprung up a breeze, which carried us at six knots an hour along the coast; it is much lower land than I was used to see, and very marshy, which in the heat of summer produces fevers, and renders the island a very dangerous residence. I did not see the coast to-day in its beauty, as it was raining very hard ashore. In the evening it began to blow very strong, and all night there was quite a gale, from which we sought shelter in the large bay of Limesole, where we anchored at half-past six, too late to enjoy the prospect of the village and its environs, which the last glimpse of daylight just enabled us to perceive.

Sunday, March 12. Three hours after midnight we weighed and left Limesole. When I went on deck at eight o'clock I found we were but just turned round a point which hid that village from our view, and were in a dead calm. The whole of the coast that we passed to-day was very verdant, and varied by moderate mountains and rich valleys, which at intervals contained most delicious meadows. At eleven o'clock a breeze sprung up, that carried us first at three, and afterwards increasing, at five and seven knots an hour. In the afternoon we passed Cape Citti, whence we saw the pretty village of the same name (built, it is said, on the site of the ancient Citium), and at ten miles distance the Marina of Larnaca, before which we anchored just at sunset, and were delighted with the neat appearance of its houses, with its verdure and its palm trees. We went immediately ashore, and I was pleased on landing to be accosted by a Turk, who spoke a little English, which he had picked up when a boy from the ships employed on the expedition to Egypt that anchored here. We walked immediately to Larnaca, about a quarter of a mile distance from the marina, where I went to the house of the English consul, to whom I delivered despatches from Mr Liston, and who received me with the greatest hospitality, and put me into a very neat room, where I soon forgot the fatigues of my voyage in a good bed, which was the more acceptable,